THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) No, Sir. However, Government of Karnataka has compiled a document in which a plea has been made for establishment of second channel for Radio and TV for mounting programmes of education in close liaison with local agencies in their local laguages. AIR Stations and Doordarshan Kendras broadcast programmes in regional languages and local dialects. These include programmes of information and education addressed to general and special audiences including farmers, workers, women, children, youth and others. The media keep close liaison with the State Governments, District Officers, Local Agencies and,, on the basis of such consultations exchanges mount programmes of publicity, information, entertainment and education to meet the communication needs in different areas of the listeners. In view of this situation, a separate channel under the State Government is not considered necessary.

(b) Does not arise.

Relief to Western Times

823. SHRI VISWA BANDHU GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) wheter Government are aware that the Western Times an English Daily published from Ahemdabad was totally destroyed by the mob fury in April, 1985 and the newspaper has closed since then; and

(b) what steps, if any, have been taken by the Central Government to provide relief and rehabilitation to the newspaper?

THE MIINSTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) and (b). A representation was received from the newspaper establishment seeking reliefs from the Government in light of damage caused to its property during riots in April 1985. The bankers of the newspaper establishment are reported to have agreed to offer it certain concessions. However, the details thereof cannot be disclosed as the information is treated as confidential.

Drinking water problem in Maharashtra

824. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the manner in which Government propose to solve the problem of drinking water in the drought affected parts of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BUTA SINGH): Provision of drinking water is the responsibility of the State. The Central Government supplement the efforts of the States in providing drinking water in rural areas through assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). During 1985-86 Government of Maharashtra had indicated a provision of Rs. 6601.00 lakhs under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) for rural water supply and an amount of Rs 1850.88 lakhs was provided to the State under the ARWSP.

For 1986-87 a provisional amount of Rs. 1934.00 lakhs has been allocated to Maharashtra under ARWSP The State Government have indicated a n outlay of Rs. 9710.00 lakhs under State MNP. The provisions under MNP and ARWSP are utilised for providing drinking water to villages including those in drought affected areas. In addition, during 1985-86 and 1986-37 a sum of 2737,00 lakhs

was sanctioned by Government of India to Maharashtra as advance plan assistance under drought relief for taking up drinking water schemes in the drought affected areas.

Complaints against project coordinator, barley project, IARI, Karnal

825. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi has received a memorandum on behalf of the employees of the Barley Project IARI Regional Station, Karnal in February, 1986 regarding irregularities in purchases and funds, tempernig of official records, misuse of official vehicles etc. against the Project Coordinator (Barley);

(b) what are the details of the charges made;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the allegations;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) whether it is a fact that some of the staff members of the said regional station have been harassed for making these complaints, if so, what action has been taken to protected the staff members?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The charges are generally of the nature indicated in part (a) of the Question.

(c) to (e) The matter is under investigation of the Council in Consultation with Director, IARI, New Delhi. Suitable action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation. The staff will not be allowed to be harassed for ventilating genuine grievances.

Drought in Maharashtra

826. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra is again facing a drought this year;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what financial assistance the Central Government have provided or propose to provide to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The extent of damages caused due to continuing drought as reported by the State Government is as under:—

1. Districts affected	—	23
2. Population affected	—	180.74 lakhs
3. Cropped area affected	—	58.88 lakh ha.
4. Cattle population affected	—	81.00 lakhs

(c) A ceiling of Rs. 87.24 crores as Central assistance has been approved so far for 1985-86 including Rs. 21.68 crores for 1986-87.

T.V. Towers at Vishakapatnam and Vijayawada

827. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up which high powered TV